

ELIZABETH MARTIN.

[To accompany bill H. R. 597.]

DECEMBER 12, 1856.

Mr. BROOM, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Elizabeth Martin, widow of George, report:*

That the said Elizabeth made claim in 1844, to the Pension Office, for a pension under the act of Congress of July 7, 1838, founded on the services of her husband, George Martin, as an express rider from Charlottesville barracks, Virginia, to different parts of the State to the army, in the revolutionary war, for twelve months or more preceding the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. It is also claimed that he sometimes acted as deputy quartermaster at that post, to press horses and cattle, and obtain provisions for the prisoners at the barracks. The claim was disallowed on the grounds that "there was no authority to enlist under military obligations an express rider, and the pension laws provide for those only who rendered service in an authorized and embodied corps under the penalties of the law-martial."

One witness testified that she knew he served as an express rider, and found his own horse for one year in the war in the service above stated, and "also acted as a kind of deputy quartermaster to press horses into service, and bought up cattle and other provisions for the troops at the barracks and the prisoners taken at Burgoyne's defeat."

Another witness, certified to be credible, testified that he was well acquainted with the said George Martin, and he knew he served as an express rider, and found his own horse, for more than six months, if not twelve, when the British prisoners were quartered at Charlottesville, called Albemarle barracks.

It appears she was married to said Martin before the close of the war in 1782, and is now ninety years old, and needy.

Your committee think that the services rendered by an express rider is meritorious service; and while acting in that capacity, had he been derelict in the performance of his duty, would, whether taken from the line, or engaged in voluntary service, be subject to the same penalties of the law-martial. And inasmuch as the former pension laws have not provided for this service, they recommend a bill for her relief.

